



binary image by binarizing the pixels of multivalued tones, comprising the steps of:

determining an intended pixel;

determining at least a pixel adjacent to said intended pixel;

determining the density difference between said intended pixel and said adjacent pixel; and

determining said intended pixel as an edge portion in the case where said density difference is larger than a predetermined setting; and

setting the binarization threshold for said intended pixel determined as an edge portion to a value lower, the larger the edge intensity with the adjacent pixel and higher, the smaller the edge intensity with the adjacent pixel.

4. An image processing apparatus for generating a binary image by binarizing pixels of multivalued tones, comprising:

means for determining an intended pixel;

means for determining at least a pixel adjacent to said intended pixel;

means for determining the density difference between said intended pixel and said adjacent pixel; and

means for setting the binarization threshold of said intended pixel in accordance with said density difference and binarizing said intended pixel.

095824-63000